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LB 622

affected. But in the legitimate sense of, you said this is what you are due as a result of the MEF formula, and this is what we expect you are due as a result of the over...the roll-over of that formula, they will...all of those expectations will be fully honored. They would be fully honored, as LB 622 is currently drafted.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you. Then it will be...you're not "taketheth" away what they have coming then, as far as the way it's set up right now. Then, as far as Senator Landis' amendment, I do favor that. I think that's a good idea. That's making the smaller cities that are not getting any sales tax...it sounds like they're making them whole. So with this...with that, I'll turn the rest of my time over to Senator Raikes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Senator Engel, members. A couple of points I wanted to make is...and to follow up on what Senator Landis said. I think efficiency at achieving a public purpose is an important objective we need to keep in mind, particularly when allocating public monies to local governments. That's basically his point. If in fact 88 percent of the people who live in cities are not adversely affected, then it makes little sense for us to adopt a measure which would try to fiscally heal, if you will, those 88 percent of the people, as well as the 12 percent that are affected. So I think that's an important point. Whether or not we would be able to proceed with Senator Landis' idea, I think that efficiency ratio is way too low for us to be interested in. The second thing is, a number of folks have mentioned that cities are bound by a 2.5 percent budget growth. The fact is, with a three-fourths majority of the city council, I believe, they can vote an extra 1 percent. So they can go to 3.5 percent vote...or 3.5 percent increase in their budget. I think most all of them have done that. So the 3.5 percent is probably by far a more common spending lid than is the 2.5 percent. And then of course, cities also, in terms of spending additional resources, have the options, which maybe you're more familiar with in the case of schools, that they can go to a vote of the people and ask for